

**ABSTRACT**

5 A scalpel is provided having a handle with a longitudinally extending cavity therein, a blade carrier within the cavity and movable longitudinally relative to the handle between an operative position in which a blade carried thereby is exposed for use at an open end of the cavity and an inoperative position in which a blade carried thereby is retracted within the cavity in the handle, and

10 a manually operable slider associated with the blade carrier and passing through a slot in a wall of the handle at an edge thereof, herein termed the top edge. The handle is moulded as a single piece moulding with an integral bridge defining an endless open end to the cavity through which the blade carrier is introduced into the cavity. The slider is formed as a separate part

15 that snap fits to the blade carrier after its introduction through the open end of the cavity to form a blade carrier and slider assembly. "Click stops" are provided in the operative and inoperative positions by tooth and notch formations on the slider and slot. A final innermost permanently locked position is also preferably provided.

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